

VIZ PREMIERE COMICS
\$3.75 USA/\$5.00 CAN

2001 NIGHTS

5
NO. 5

Story and Art by
YUKINOBU HOSHINO

Night 10:

MEDUSA'S THRONE





THE HUMAN
MALE--IT WOULD
SEEM--IF NEVER
SATISFIED UNLESS
HE IS BUSY CON-
SIDERING VIRGINITY,
BE IT HUMAN
OR PLANETIC.
IT'S ALL THE
SAME TO MEN.

THE THREE
SHUTTLES
HAVE COM-
PLETED
TAKE-OFF FROM
MOTHERSHIP
ATHENA AND
ARE HEADING
TOWARD
PLANET
ALAC II.

...VIRGINITY--
THERE'S NO
END TO
THE MAN
WHO HAVE
DEFERRED
THEMSELVES
FOR ITS
VAGUE
IDEAL...

MEDEUSA, WHO HAD A
HUNDREDS WENT OF
COUNTLESS SNAKES...A
MADREN OF HELL, THE
MAN WHOSE BLOOD FELL
UPON HER FACE WERE
IMMEDIATELY TURNED
TO STONE...THE CON-
STELLATION PERSEUS
REFLECTS THE
LEGENDARY HERO
WITH THE HEAD OF
THE SLAIN MEDEUSA
ON HIS HAND



THAT
TAKING
JUST AT
MEDEUSA
HEAD IN
THE BETA
GOLD
ALGO.

Algo +

ONE
PRIMARY GOAL
AND BEEN TO
INVESTIGATE
ALGO, A
TEXTBOOK
EXAMPLE OF
AN ECLIPSING
BINARY STAR?
BUT WHO
COULD HAVE
IMAGINED A
PLANET LIKE
THAT?

EACH
OF THE
THREE
SHUTTLES
IS ENTERING
THE
ATMOSPHERE

OH, WELL.
WE CAN'T
JUST
IGNORE
IT.

STILL, YOU
CAN GET INTO
A LOT OF
TROUBLE LOOKING
AT SOMETHING
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO LOOK AT--

--A FACET
OF THE
MEDEUSA MYTH
AREN HAVE
BEEN
OVERLOOKING
SINCE THE
TIME OF THE
ANCIENT
GREEKS.

"ECLIPSING BINARY STARS THAT FORM DOUBLE SYSTEMS SUCH AS A BINARY STAR, THE BRIGHT STAR WITH THE BRIGHTER
STAR, AND THE DIMMER, SHADOWED (ORANGE ORANGE) STAR OF TRIPLE OR QUART, AND ECLIPSING BINARY STARS ARE ALSO
KNOWN AS ALGO, THE VARIABLE STARS."

Expedition A



CITY OF STONE



—MIDDLE LATITUDES—

- CONTINUOUS RAIN
- SURFACE TEMPERATURE 40°C
- WIND SPEED (TYPICAL) 70 METERS/SECOND (SURFACE) 10 METERS/SECOND



ALTITUDE 20,000 FEET
WIND SPEED
BLOWN
ALONG AT
400 KPH

WHAT
IS THIS
HURRICANE
DOING?

NO IT
SEEMS THIS
IS THE
PLANET'S
CONSTANT
WIND

ACCORDING TO THE MESSAGE FROM ATHENA, ALGOL 2 HAS A GRAVITATIONAL FORCE FIFTEEN TIMES GREATER THAN EARTH'S.

HOW IS THAT RELATED TO THE WIND?

AN FIVE-DOZEN-FOOT-DEEP OCEAN SEEMS TO BE AN OCEAN, SO HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT TIDE FORCES?

IT'S THE ATMOSPHERE THAT'S ATTRACTED THE ATMOSPHERE.

THE PLANET SPIN AROUND AND AROUND EACH OTHER AS THE TIDE ACTION CHANGES IN COMPLEX WAYS. ALGOL 2 IS CLOSE BY AND SEEMS TO EXERCISE THE FULL EFFECT.

THE PULSING GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF ALGOL 2 AND 3 PULLS THE ATMOSPHERE, SO ITS THICKNESS CHANGES ENDLESSLY.



IT WOULD BE STRANGER IF THE WIND DIDN'T BLOW, WOULDN'T IT?

ANYWAY, WHERE THERE'S AN ATMOSPHERE, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF LIFE-FORMS EXISTING.

WHAT KIND OF LIFE? SOMETHING LIKE A WIFE?

ON A WINDY DAY LIKE THIS, THEY MAY BE HEARD UNDERGROUND PARTICULARLY IF THERE'S THE TYPE THAT HELMS MINORITIES!



**WAIT
A
SECOND!**



**BELOW THE LEADERS
FATTEN
LOOKS
STRONGER
FOR
NATURAL
TOPOGRAPHY.**

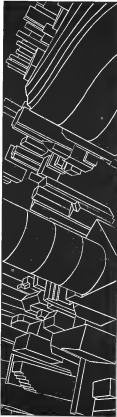
**ANY
DETECTION
OF
METAL?**

**NO
PUT
LOOK!
LOOK!**



**IT'S
A
CITY
!**





NO WAY...
IT GOES ON
ENDLESSLY
FOR
THOUSANDS
OF MILES.



IS THIS
PICTURE
REACHING
ATHENS,
TODAY?



WIND
CONDITIONS
ARE BAD
IT SEEMS
TO BE
BECAUSE
OF AIRBORNE
POLLUTING
FLARES



LOOK!
SOMETHING
MOVING AT
HIGH SPEED
ON THE
STREET. IT
MIGHT BE
A KIND OF
TRANSPORTATION
DEVICE.



THREE
A
CIVILIZATION
!
WE HAVE
SUFT
CONTACT
!



HOLD IT--
WOULD YOU
BE QUIET?
WITH THIS
SILENCE
WE COULD BE
THROWN
INTO A
BUILDING

BEFORE WE LEAVE
WE HAVE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH
THEM, TELL THEM
WE'RE NOT HOSTILE!

ASK THEM
TO LET US MEET WITH
A REPRESENTATIVE!



AND
IF THEY
DON'T HAVE
RAPID
EQUIPMENT
?



IF THEY
CAN BUILD
A CITY
THEY'LL
AT LEAST
HAVE
RAPID!



GREEK
CIVILIZATION
BUILT
CITIES, BUT
THEY
DON'T MAKE
RAPID!

YOU SAID
THEY HAD A
TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM, DIDN'T
YOU?



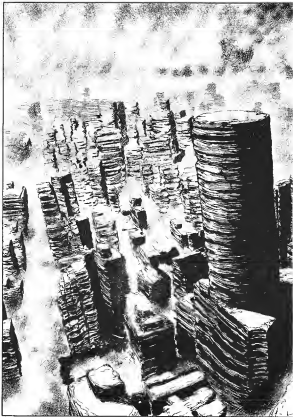
THEY RUN
ON
CARRIAGES
!

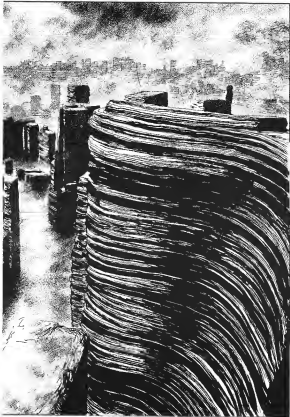


WOULD
BOTH
OF YOU
BARTENDERS
SHUT
UP ?

WERE
GOING
TO LAND
SO NO
COMPLAINTS
!









AHHHHHHH

A CITY
OF
STONE!
HUR...?

THE ONLY
DIFFICULT
IS THE
ROAD—
AND IT
MADE
THIS, TOO.

BUT... BUT
SOMETHING
WAS
MOVING
WHAT...?

MASSIVE
ROCKS
FALLING
ROCKS,
ROLLED
BY THE
WIND AND
POUNDING
INTO
GULLIES.

ALSO:
THIS WIND
CAUSED
THIS STRONG
WIND TO
BLOW
CONTINUOUSLY
FOR HUNDREDS
OF THOUSANDS
OF YEARS,
DIGGING OUT
MOUNTAIN
SIDES,
CARVING
STONE—

WHO
THD



REMEMBER



IS THERE ANOTHER
ONE COMING
FROM
THE OTHER
DIRECTION?

BOOM



THEY'RE
ON A
COLLISION
COURSE!



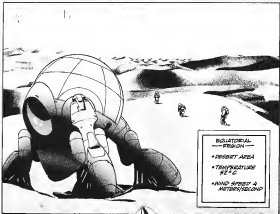




Expedition B



OCEAN
OF SAND



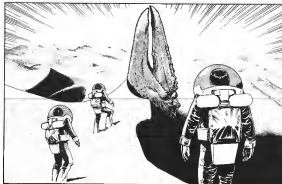
EQUATORIAL
REGION

• DESERT AREA

• TEMPERATURE
92° F

• WIND SPEED 4
MILES/SECOND





TOMMY
IT'S AN
OCEAN OF
SAND, EH,
T?

EVEN THE
IDEA HAS
BECOME A
FOOLISH...

skaa skaa

HEY,
THERE'S MORE
OF IT DOWN
HERE!

HE, HE,
HE,
LOOK!

JUST LIKE
A FIDDLER
CRAB--BIG
CLAW AND
TINY BODY

SO ALL
WE CAN HAVE
THE BIG CLAW
STICKING
OUT, HUH
T?

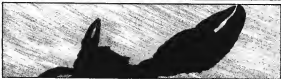
THIS OTHER
CLAW IS SO
SMALL--NOT
AN UNUSUALLY
IMBALANCED
DESIGN.







SHHHHAAASSSS



Expedition C



MEDUSA'S GAZE

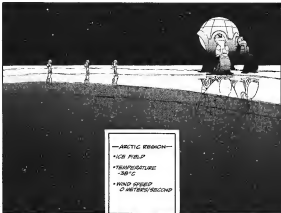
MAYBE
WE'RE
CURSED

ACCORDING TO
THE SAINT MARY
SAVES FROM
THE STORMED SHIP
ATHENA, IT
SEEMS THAT
CONTACT WITH
THE OTHER
EXPEDITIONS
HAS BEEN LOST.

THEIR LAST
MESSAGES
SPOKE OF
SOMETHING
LIKE A "CITY
OF STONE"
AND AN
"OCEAN OF
HAND"

THERE MAY
HAVE BEEN AN
AGE ONCE WHEN
THIS PLANET
ALSO IS
SUPPORTING
LIFE, BUT NOW
IT'S BECOME
A PLANET
OF DEATH.

ANY CREATURE
THAT MANAGED
TO EVOLVE
CONVULSIVE
LONG TELEKINE
THE INCREDIBLE
POWER OF
ALBOLA AND
ITS ADDITIONAL
INFLUENCE





CLEARLY A
METEOROLOGICAL
CHANCE ON I HAVE
GONE OVER ALL
THE WATER ON
THE PLANET--
PROBABLY TENS
OF THOUSANDS
OF YEARS AGO--
MOVING THE
POLAR CAP



FROM THE
AIR ABOVE
DART FEELS
HE SAW
SOMETHING
STRANGE



IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
WHITE, SNOWY
LAYER OF ICE,
A BLACK
REGION IN
HOLD BEHOLD--
HE DECIDED
TO MARK THAT
OUR LANDING
POINT



IT WAS AN
ICE FIELD
EXQUISITELY
POLISHED
BY THE
WIND.

LIKE A
MIRROR, THE
HEAVENS WERE
REFLECTED
THREE, AND
PERHAPS
BEAUTIFUL.
POULSEN OPEN
HIS CLOUTER
BUTTERER.

OF COURSE,
HE CON-
SIDERED ONE
"INVESTI-
GATION" IMMEDIATELY--

"NEVER
NOTING THAT
THE WIND
HAD RASED
UP AND HE
PROCEEDED
AND PROCEEDING
FAST."



BECAUSE OF THE
STEADY HARBING
GRAVITATIONAL
FORCE THIS PLANET'S
ATMOSPHERE IS
DISTORTED IN THE
EXTREME JO-
STREAMS FLOWING
WITH VIOLENT
ENERGY TOWARD
THE EQUATORIAL
REGION

ACCORDINGLY
WHEN THE
ATMOSPHERE
AT THE POLES
REACHES ITS
THINNEST, A
STATE OF PER-
FECT VACUUM
CAN BE
ACHIEVED..



HEY,
MAX--

WHAT,
TORU?



THE VACUUM
STATE WNT
GOING TO
CONTINUE
FOREVER
IF IT T

POSSIBLY
NOT..



THE QUESTION
IS WHETHER
OR NOT THE
OXYGEN IN
OUR SUITS
CAN HOLD
OUT TIL THE
ATMOSPHERE
RETURNS

THAT'S
RIGHT...

THERE'S A PHENOMENON
KNOWN AS
"ICEBERG
MELTING"



WHEN TWO
POLARIZED
SOLID, FLAT
SURFACES
TOUCH IN
A VACUUM,
THEY CAN'T
BE SEP-
ARATED

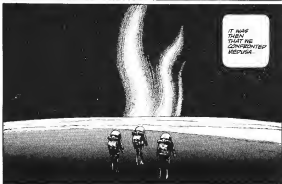
THERE HE WENT
ON ICE AS SMOOTH
AS A MIRROR...
AND SOME JAPOT
SOMEWHERE HAD
BUILT A SMALL
FLAT SURFACE
INTO THE BOTTOMS
OF OUR SHOES

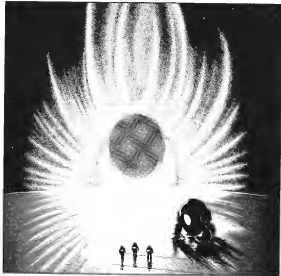
ALL WE
COULD
DO WAS
STAND...
THAT'S
ABOUT
LOOF
STONES...

I'M THINKING
OF MOVING
THE ICE FIELD
THE HELP
OF PERSEUS.

THAT'S
A GOOD
NINE

BECAUSE
THEY SAY THE
HERO APPROACHED
NEPUHA USING
HIS SHIELD AS A
MIRROR...



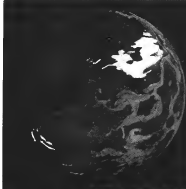


Night 10: fin

Night 11:

A STRANGER'S FOOTSTEPS



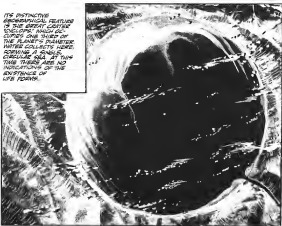


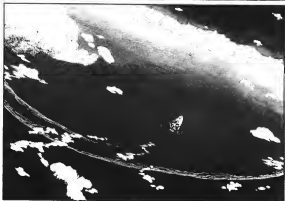
THE PLANET
POMULA II—
SECOND PLANET OF
THE G2-TYPE MAIN
SEQUENCE ROSE
POMULA

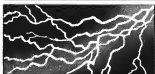
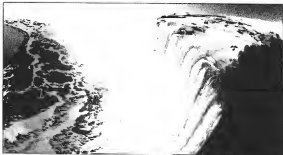
CHARACTERISTICS
RELATIVE TO EARTH:
GRAVITY 0.82
RADIUS 0.88
MAYS 0 TO
400,000,000

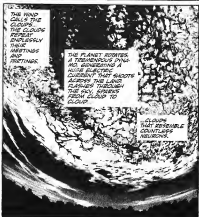
BECAUSE OF ITS
PRIMITIVE COMPO-
SITION, THE
ATMOSPHERE IS
NOT SUITABLE
FOR BREATHING

ITS DISTINCTIVE
GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE
IS THE GREAT CIRCULAR
SCAR, WHICH OC-
CUPIES ONE THIRD OF
THE PLANET'S DIAMETER.
WATER COLLECTS HERE,
FORMING A SHALLOW
CIRCULAR SEA. AT THIS
TIME THERE ARE NO
INDICATIONS OF THE
EXISTENCE OF
LIFE FORMS.











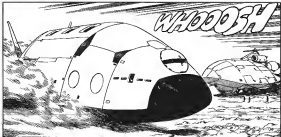
FROM CLOUD
TO CLOUD
FROM CLOUD
TO EARTH--
ELECTRICAL CURRENT
RUNNING
THROUGH
NEURONS...

...LIKE A
BRAIN
THE SIZE
OF A
PLANET.

TO WHAT
PURPOSE
DO I
EXIST
HAB?T

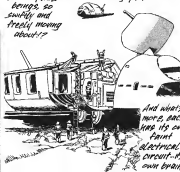
THE HUGE
'BRAIN'
WENT ON
ASAPING...

...BUT IT
HAD NO
CONSCIOUSNESS,
NO SACRIFICE
TO ANSWER
ITS QUERY...




*So many little
beings, so
swiftly and
freely moving
about!*


Amazingly fast!



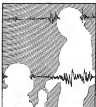
*And what's
more, each
has its own
faint
electrical
current...its
own brain.*



-do
they
know
what
they
are?



-do
they
know
what
they
are?

[illegible][illegible]

Zzzzzzzzzzz

OXYGEN DOESN'T EXIST IN PURILLA ITS ATTACK-ARRE

THE OCEAN WATER IS ALMOST PURE HYDROCHLORIC ACID, AND LIFE FORMS, EVEN BACTERIA, HAVE YET TO BE FOUND.

BUT IF WE TREATED THE GROUND WATER, IT COULD BE USED FOR AGRICULTURE AND DOMAINS—AND THE CREATION OF OXYGEN WOULD ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY.

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON PURILLA REMOVES SLIT OF THE SUN, AND THE TEMPERATURE HERE AS WELL FEELS VERY COMFORTABLE ENOUGH.

Zzzzzzzzzzz

OXYGEN DOESN'T EXIST IN PURILLA ITS ATTACK-ARRE

THE OCEAN WATER IS ALMOST PURE HYDROCHLORIC ACID, AND LIFE FORMS, EVEN BACTERIA, HAVE YET TO BE FOUND.

BUT IF WE TREATED THE GROUND WATER, IT COULD BE USED FOR AGRICULTURE AND DOMAINS—AND THE CREATION OF OXYGEN WOULD ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY.

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON PROVIDES SUFFICIENT SUN, AND THE TEMPERATURE HERE AS WELL FEELS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH.

Zzzzzzzzzzz

OXYGEN DOESN'T EXIST IN PURILLA ITS ATTACK-ARRE

THE OCEAN WATER IS ALMOST PURE HYDROCHLORIC ACID, AND LIFE FORMS, EVEN BACTERIA, HAVE YET TO BE FOUND.

BUT IF WE TREATED THE GROUND WATER, IT COULD BE USED FOR AGRICULTURE AND DOMAINS—AND THE CREATION OF OXYGEN WOULD ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY.

THE LIGHT OF THE MOON PROVIDES SUFFICIENT SUN, AND THE TEMPERATURE HERE AS WELL FEELS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH.

IN SHORT,
THE
PUELLA
SYSTEM HE
PROMISING

IF THIS
EXPERIMENTAL
SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNE
SUCCEEDS,
COLONIES
WILL INCREASE
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER



THERE ARE
COLONIZATION
PLANS FOR
NEIGHBORING
PUELLA
IS, TOO

BUT
OF COURSE
THAT'S THE
EVENING
DINNER
SHARE



DO YOU
THINK ITS
TRUE THAT
LIFE ROBERT
EXIST ON
THIS PLANET
REBELT

THAT'S FOR
US THE
BIOLOGY
TEAM TO
LOOK INTO
ISN'T IT
YEA?

FLIRT THE
OCEAN LETS
GO CHECK
IT OUT
RIGHT
AWAY

SOUNDING
GREAT?



GEOLOGY
TEAM, LOOK
FOR MINERAL
DEPOSIT
ANYTHING
THAT'S A
USABLE METAL
IS WELCOME

METEOROLOGICAL
TEAM, THE
EXTENDED
FORECAST...

AND THE
BIOLOGY
TEAM, YEA
AND HELL...



MATTY
THEY'VE
ALREADY
LEFT FOR
THE OCEAN
?

INCREDIBLE.
THEIR
ASSIGNMENT
IS TO
GET THE
VEGETABLE
GARDEN
PLANTED





WATCH YOUR
STEP, MENNA.
THE ACID WILL
GET YOUR
SUIT IF IT
TOUCHES THE
WATER.



HOW
DISAPPOINTING...
I THOUGHT
WE WOULD
AT LEAST
FIND AMINO
ACIDS IN
THE OCEAN.

IT'S STILL
SOONG.
THIS
PLANET...



I THINK
IT'S ONLY
BEEN ABOUT
A BILLION
YEARS SINCE
IT WAS
BORN.

THAT'S WHY
AT THE STAGE
WHERE IT'S
BEING FORMED
BY APPROXIMATE
STEAM AND
GASES OF THE
PRIMITIVE
ATMOSPHERE.

IT'S LIKE THE
ARCHEOZOIC
PERIOD THREE
BILLION FIVE-
HUNDRED MILLION
YEARS AGO ON
EARTH - LIFE IS
STILL ONE OR
TWO HUNDRED
MILLION YEARS
AWAY.



BUT GIVE IT
ENOUGH HEAT
AND ELECTRICAL
PUSHOVERS, AND
BEFORE LONG
THEY'LL BE
OVERFLOW
WITH ORGANIC
MATTER...



...LIKE
A THICK
SOUP OF
HIGH
MOLECULAR
PROTEINS...

...NO
LIFE
WILL
EMERGE
FROM
THAT.



I WONDER
IF WE
CAN'T
PLANT
LIFE IN
THIS SEA
WITH
OUR OWN
HANDS...



NOT
UNLESS
WE
WERE
GOOD...



KRAK



LOOK
OUT!
MEYARD!



SIGH

SPASH



DON'T MOVE
HIS HEAD! IT'S
ACTIVATING AS
A NEUTRALIZING
AGENT AND
OXYGEN!



PARA
! ON
PARA
!

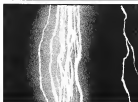
I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU ON
EARTH, MEMOR-
RE DON'T KNOW
WHAT KIND OF
DANGER YOU'LL
MEET UP
WITH...



HUMANITY
IS JUST
BEGINNING
TO REACH
OUT INTO
THE
UNIVERSE



FORTUNATELY
IT SEEMS
THERE IS NO
THREAT TO
HIS LIFE
WHEN THE
SURGERY'S
FINISHED GO
TO YOUR
SIDE...







THE
POWER
SUPPLY
CUT THE
POWER
SUPPLY!
HURRY!

IT IS
CUT! THE
CIRCUITS
ARE GRAB-
BING
PROCESSING
ELECTRICITY
BY
THEMSELVES!



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?



WHAT
IS IT... WHAT'S
THE
CONNECTION?



I'LL
NOT
LOOK
AND
SEE
YOU
REAY
STILL...





The electrical
information I've
absorbed has a
complex and
strange flavor.

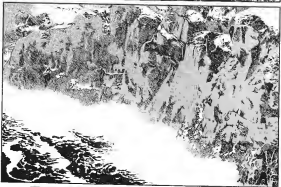


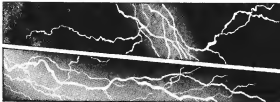
Can they really
have come on a
small boat from
a far away star...?

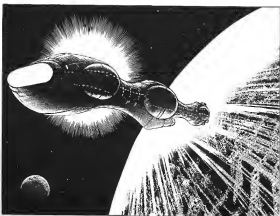
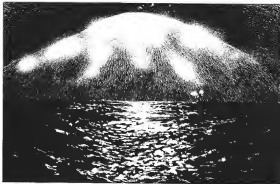
Extravagantly
numerous,
improbably
short-lived
beings.
"humans".

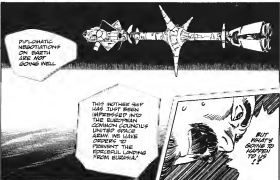


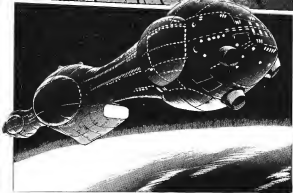
"living things"...?

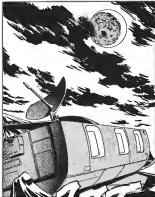












JUST
HOW LONG
DO THEY
INTEND TO
KEEP UP
THIS
STANDOFF?
IT'S BEEN
A MONTH
ALREADY.



VEGA

AS LONG
AS THIS
MOTHER
SHIP HOLDS
OUT, EVEN
A SHIP LIKE
VEGA WON'T
BE ABLE
TO MOVE.



ONE
FALSE
STEP
AND IT'S
OVER...



THE FUSION
VOLUME IS
LOW CAUSE
THE QUANTITY
OF THE
ULTRASONIC
CAPTURED
TWO.

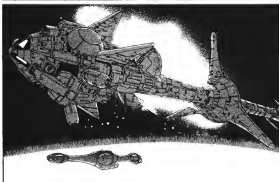
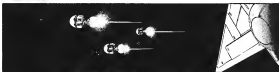


DIDNT
YOU
HEAR ME,
MEIARU!
LOOK
SHARP!

AH,
YES.









BOOM
BOOM



DID YOU
KNOW
THE "GOLD"
THEORY,
PAPA?



THE THEORY
THAT THE
EARTH ITSELF
IS A HUGE
SUPER-LIFE
KNOWN
AS GALT,
RIGHT?

ALL
CREATURES
WERE
BORN
FROM IT--



...I WONDER HOW
THE THINGS WE
HUMANS DO MIGHT
APPEAR FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF
SUCH AN AWESOME
EXISTENCE...



WOW...
IT'S ROBERTA!
EVEN HUMANS
THEMSELVES
UNDERSTAND
THE THINGS
THAT ARE
GOING--

















IN THE
CRATE'S FALLING COLONEL.

PLEASE
DO
SOMETHING
TO
STABILIZE
OUR
COURSE--
!

THE
SPACESHIP
CAN'T
TAKE
ENTERING
THE
ATMOS--

COLONEL
!!

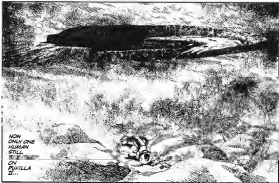


NOOO
!





THE INFORMATION FROM THE SONCESHOP WAS OF LITTLE INTEREST TO THE PLANET'S THOUGHTS "WEAPON", "INVASION" AND SO ON. ALL THESE FACTS ALLOWED IT TO DO WHAT IT WANTED. REMEMBER SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THE SMALL CREATURES ON THE SURFACE HAD CHANGED TO BUILT...



NOW
ONLY ONE
HUMAN
STILL
LIES
ON
PUYLLA
IS...



...ITS TINY
BOATWAVE'S
FLEW
ABOUT 10
MAYBE--
IT WOULDN'T
HOLD OUT
LONG, BUT...

...THE BOAT
REACHED OUT
TIMIDLY TO
THAT SMALL, SHAL-
LOW INFORMATION
SYSTEM.



AND
THEN
AT
LAST...



IT
GRABBED
A DEEP
AND
HORRIBLE
BREATH...



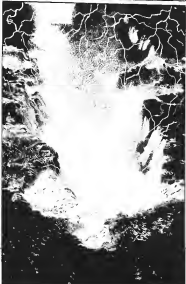
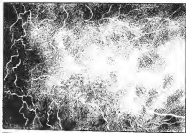
IT
TOUCHED
THE HEART
MADE THREE
CHARACTERS
PERCEIVE EACH
OTHER.



AND IT
BURSTED.



AND
RECEIVED
ALL OF THAT
HEART.



A dramatic black and white illustration of a stormy sea. The sky is dark and filled with multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts striking down. The sea is turbulent, with large, white-capped waves crashing. In the middle ground, a rocky coastline is visible, with a small, dark, forested hill rising from the water's edge. The overall mood is one of intense power and natural fury.

*I will wait
eternally—
tens of millions
of years, or
hundreds of
millions of
years...*



*until the
day when
life
creatures
fill this
world*

*To this
and I will
bestow as
much of
my life as
necessary.*

